Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented): A device for spotwise imaging printing surfaces comprising:

a laser light source producing at least one laser beam movable relative to a printing surface, the laser beam defining an image spot on the printing surface, the laser light source having an input laser power; and

a laser control varying the input laser power or an exposure time as a function of a distance of the laser light source from the image spot; and

a distance meter for determining the distance of the laser light source from the image spot.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the laser light source includes a diode laser.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the laser light source produces a plurality of light beams spatially separated from one another for simultaneous imaging of a plurality of printing spots.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the laser light source includes an individually controllable diode laser array.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 6~~ A method for imaging printing surfaces using laser light comprising the steps of:

providing a laser light source for generating a laser beam having a position-dependent intensity distribution in two spatial directions perpendicular to a propagation axis, and a specific divergence;

providing a printing surface at a distance from the laser light source;

measuring the distance of the laser light source from the printing surface;

exposing the printing surface located at a certain distance from the laser light source; and

varying an input laser power or exposure time so as to vary a spot size of image spots on the printing surface,

wherein the varying of the laser power or exposure time is a function of the distance of the laser light source from the image spot on the printing surface.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 8~~ A method for generating printing spots of desired size comprising the steps of:

providing a laser light source for generating a laser beam having a position-dependent intensity distribution in two spatial directions perpendicular to a propagation axis, and a certain divergence;

providing a printing surface at a distance from the laser light source;

measuring the distance of the laser light source from the printing surface;

adjusting the spot size to a predetermined value by varying the input laser power or exposure time,

wherein the varying of the laser power or exposure time is a function of the distance of the laser light source from the image spot on the printing surface.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A printing unit comprising:

a printing surface; and

a device for spotwise imaging the printing surface, the device having a laser light source

producing at least one laser beam movable relative to a printing surface, the laser beam defining an image spot on the printing surface, the laser light source having an input laser power, the device also including a laser control varying the input laser power or an exposure time as a function of a distance of the laser light source from the image spot and a distance meter for determining the distance of the laser light source from the image spot.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A printing machine comprising:

at least one printing unit, the printing unit including a printing surface; and a device for spotwise imaging the printing surface, the device having a laser light source producing at least one laser beam movable relative to a printing surface, the laser beam defining an image spot on the printing surface, the laser light source having an input laser power, the device also including a laser control varying the input laser power or an exposure time as a function of a distance of the laser light source from the image spot and a distance meter for determining the distance of the laser light source from the image spot.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented): A device for spotwise imaging printing surfaces comprising:

a laser light source producing at least one laser beam movable relative to a printing surface, the laser beam defining an image spot on the printing surface, the laser light source having an input for altering the laser power; and

a laser control varying the input as a function of a distance of the laser light source from the image spot; and

a distance meter for determining the distance of the laser light source from the image spot.

Claim 14 (canceled).